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obtain clarification by loudhailer or radiotelephone must consider the signal to be a command to stop the vessel immediately.

- (c) *Boarding*. The operator of a vessel directed to stop must:
- (1) Monitor Channel 16, VHF-FM, if so equipped.
- (2) Stop immediately and lay to or, if appropriate and/or directed to do so by the authorized officer or CCAMLR inspector, maneuver in such a way as to allow the safe boarding of the vessel by the authorized officer or CCAMLR inspector and the boarding party.
- (3) Except for fishing vessels with a freeboard of 4 feet (1.25 m) or less, provide, when requested by an authorized officer or CCAMLR inspector, a pilot ladder capable of being used for the purpose of enabling the authorized officer or CCAMLR inspector to embark and disembark the vessel safely. The pilot ladder must be maintained in good condition and kept clean.
- (4) When necessary to facilitate the boarding or when requested by an authorized officer or CCAMLR inspector, provide a manrope or safety line, and illumination for the pilot ladder.
- (5) Take such other actions as necessary to facilitate boarding and to ensure the safety of the authorized officer or CCAMLR inspector and the boarding party.
- (d) Signals. The following signals, extracted from the International Code of Signals, may be sent by flashing light by an enforcement unit when conditions do not allow communications by loudhailer or radiotelephone. Knowledge of these signals by vessel operators is not required. However, knowledge of these signals and appropriate action by a vessel operator may preclude the necessity of sending the signal "L" and the necessity for the vessel to stop instantly.
- (1) "AA" repeated (.- .-) is the call to an unknown station. The operator of the signaled vessel should respond by identifying the vessel by radiotelephone or by illuminating the vessel's identification.
- (2) "RY-CY" (.-. -.-- -.-. -.-) means "you should proceed at slow speed, a boat is coming to you." This signal is normally employed when conditions allow an enforcement boarding without

the necessity of the vessel being boarded coming to a complete stop, or, in some cases, without retrieval of fishing gear that may be in the water.

(3) "SQ3" (... ---- ...--) means "you should stop or heave to; I am going to board you."

[61 FR 35550, July 5, 1996, as amended at 73 FR 67809, Nov. 17, 2008]

Subpart B—High Seas Fisheries

AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 5501 et seq.

§300.10 Purpose.

This subpart implements the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act of 1995 (Act), which requires the Secretary to license U.S. vessels fishing on the high seas.

§ 300.11 Definitions.

In addition to the terms defined in section 300.2 and those in the Act and the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 24, 1993 (Agreement), the terms used in this subpart have the following meanings. If a term is defined differently in §300.2, the Act, or the Agreement, the definition in this section shall apply.

High seas means the waters beyond the territorial sea or exclusive economic zone (or the equivalent) of any Nation, to the extent that such territorial sea or exclusive economic zone (or the equivalent) is recognized by the United States.

High seas fishing vessel means any vessel of the United States used or intended for use on the high seas for the purpose of the commercial exploitation of living marine resources as a harvesting vessel, mothership, or any other support vessel directly engaged in a fishing operation.

International conservation and management measures means measures to conserve or manage one or more species of living marine resources that are adopted and applied in accordance with the relevant rules of international law, as reflected in the 1982 United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea, and that are recognized by the United States.

Regional Administrator means any one of the Directors of the five NMFS regional offices, defined under §300.2, serving as the issuing office.

§ 300.12 Issuing offices.

Any Regional Administrator may issue permits required under this subpart. While applicants for permits may submit an application to any Regional Administrator, applicants are encouraged to submit their applications (with envelopes marked "Attn: HSFCA Permits") to the Regional Administrator with whom they normally interact on fisheries matters.

§ 300.13 Vessel permits.

- (a) Eligibility. (1) Any high seas fishing vessel of the United States is eligible to receive a permit under this subpart, unless the vessel was previously authorized to be used for fishing on the high seas by a foreign nation, and—
- (i) The foreign nation suspended such authorization, because the vessel undermined the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures, and the suspension has not expired; or
- (ii) The foreign nation, within the 3 years preceding application for a permit under this section, withdrew such authorization, because the vessel undermined the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures.
- (2) The restrictions in paragraphs (a)(1) (i) and (ii) of this section do not apply if ownership of the vessel has changed since the vessel undermined the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures, and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence to the Regional Administrator demonstrating that the owner and operator at the time the vessel undermined the effectiveness of such measures has no further legal, beneficial, or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel.
- (3) The restrictions in paragraphs (a)(1) (i) and (ii) of this section do not apply if it is determined by the Regional Administrator that issuing a

permit would not subvert the purposes of the Agreement.

- (b) Application forms. The owner or operator of a high seas fishing vessel may apply for a permit under this subpart by completing an application form. Applicants may obtain an application form from a Regional Administrator.
- (c) Application information. An applicant must submit a complete and accurate permit application, signed by the owner or operator, to the appropriate Regional Administrator.
- (d) Fees. NMFS will charge a fee to recover the administrative expenses of permit issuance. The amount of the fee will be determined in accordance with the procedures of the NOAA Finance Handbook, available from a Regional Administrator, for determining administrative costs of each special product or service. The fee is specified with the application form. The appropriate fee must accompany each application. Failure to pay the fee will preclude issuance of the permit. Payment by a commercial instrument later determined to be insufficiently funded will invalidate any permit.
- (e) Issuance. (1) Except as provided in subpart D of 15 CFR part 904, the Regional Administrator will issue a permit, which will include appropriate conditions or restrictions, within 30 days of receipt of a completed application and payment of the appropriate fee.
- (2) The Regional Administrator will notify the applicant of any deficiency in the application.
- (f) Validity. Permits issued under this subpart are valid for 5 years from the date of issuance. Renewal of a permit prior to its expiration is the responsibility of the permit holder. For a permit to remain valid to its expiration date, the vessel's USCG documentation or state registration must be kept current. A permit issued under this subpart is void when the name of the owner or vessel changes, or in the event the vessel is no longer eligible for U.S. documentation, such documentation is revoked or denied, or the vessel is removed from such documentation.
- (g) Change in application information. Any changes in vessel documentation